



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**BRADLEY J. SCHLOZMAN**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **CALIFORNIA MAN SENTENCED FOR CHECK-CASHING CONSPIRACY**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Bradley J. Schlozman, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a California man was sentenced in federal court today for participating in a conspiracy to cash stolen U.S. Treasury checks using counterfeit identification.

**Seferino Roman Jacobo**, also known as Jacobo Seferino, 38, a citizen of Mexico residing in Santa Ana, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this morning to one year and six months in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Jacobo** to pay \$10,752 in restitution to Bethany Bank Trust Company in Albany, Mo., and Farmer's Bank in Bethany, Mo.

On Oct. 11, 2005, **Jacobo** pleaded guilty to his role in the conspiracy to cash stolen U.S. Treasury checks bearing forged endorsement signatures by using false identification documents. **Jacobo** was part of a group of individuals who traveled from California to Missouri in order to cash stolen U.S. Treasury checks at local banks. **Jacobo** admitted that he was paid \$1,500 to drive the other co-defendants to various locations in order to cash the stolen checks.

**Jacobo** is among four co-defendants who have pleaded guilty to charges contained in a May 19, 2005, federal indictment.

\* **Antonio Felix-Real**, also known as Roberto Noriega, 51, a citizen of Mexico residing in Santa Ana, Calif., pleaded guilty on Oct. 21, 2005, to his role in the conspiracy.

\* **Audie Marie Soto**, also known as Audree Urbieta, 42, of Santa Ana, pleaded guilty on Oct. 20, 2005, to her role in the conspiracy.

\* **Aristeo Montoya Roman**, also known as Homero Pacheco, 43, a citizen of Mexico residing in Santa Ana, pleaded guilty on Sept. 1, 2005, to all 10 counts of the federal indictment.

When they were arrested at a Super 8 Motel in Bethany, Mo., on April 26, 2005, Schlozman said, **Roman** and **Jacobo** were in possession of 30 stolen U.S. Treasury checks worth more than \$80,000 as well as more than \$16,000 in cash and dozens of false California identification documents. The counterfeit identification contained the same names found on the U.S. Treasury checks, but bore the photos of either **Felix-Real** or **Soto**.

Co-defendants acquired stolen U.S. Treasury checks payable to specific individuals and then produced or acquired false California identification documents bearing the names and addresses which matched those on the checks. They drove from the state of California to the state of Missouri, where **Felix-Real** and **Soto** used the false identification documents to cash the checks at financial institutions in various cities. After cashing the stolen checks, they gave the money to **Roman**.

On April 25, 2005, **Soto** cashed a \$2,544 U.S. Treasury check and **Felix-Real** cashed a \$1,228 U.S. Treasury check at Bethany Bank Trust Company in Albany, Mo. On April 26, 2005, **Soto** cashed a \$3,446 U.S. Treasury check at Farmer's Bank in Bethany, and attempted to cash a \$2,864 U.S. Treasury check at Bethany Bank Trust Company in Bethany. On the same day, **Felix-Real** cashed a \$3,534 U.S. Treasury check at Farmer's Bank in Bethany.

In each instance, Schlozman said, **Felix-Real** and **Soto** presented as identification a counterfeit California driver's license bearing a name to match the payee named on the check, but with the defendants' photo.

**Roman** also admitted that he retained and concealed 30 U.S. Treasury checks with a total face value of \$86,539, knowing that they were stolen; that he was illegally in possession of identification documents belonging to others, with the intent to use them to illegally cash the stolen U.S. Treasury checks by forging the endorsement signatures; and that he concealed and unlawfully possessed the U.S. Treasury checks that had been stolen from the mail.

Each of the co-defendants also agreed to forfeit to the government any interest they have in any property derived from the offenses, including \$16,321 seized from a Dodge Durango on April 26, 2005; as well as \$1,887 seized from **Roman** and \$1,534 seized from **Jacobo** on the same day.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney D. Michael Green. It was investigated by the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Bethany, Mo., Police Department.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html)